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Henry Hastings Hall to Fanny Bracher, 20 May 1862

Mandurah

Western Australia

May 20th 1862

My dear Fanny

A letter from you to your papa which was to have been enclosed to your aunt Mrs Robert Hester was by a happy mischance forgotten and afterwards forwarded to me. I read it with much pleasure and compliment you on your naivete & tact for observation. I like above everything to see people write naturally, & to my mind it is very necessary that travellers should keep their eyes open You must write to me & tell me what were your impressions on sailing up the beautiful Port Jackson I fancy the scenery must be very picturesque I have by this mail written to your mama and am happy to hear by late letters they are all well. Shakespeare sometimes talks of going to the new rich diggings at Carriboo, British Columbia, if such were the case he would take a run up to Sandhurst and see our friends We are getting a great quantity of rain now I suppose to make up for the late dry season I have been ploughing all day and to be walking so long on the soft ground is very tiring A man ploughing one acre a day walks ten miles, and now you know more than many a farmer knows. That is, taking an ordinary 9 inch furrow —

I have a very disagreeable neighbour, a woman possessed of large property in land and stock, who has chronic fits of intemperance, she was nearly drowned one day lately and nearly burnt to death shortly after. Our bishop truly said 'her riches were a curse to her'. She had some idea of letting her property and I offered her £400 per annum and had the promise of it, but she afterwards changed her mind

Please tell cousin Edward I am always glad to get a paper from him and would send some of ours in return but they are so small and trashy I am ashamed of them. My message to Aunt is that she may be on the lookout for a letter from me very soon, as I had almost made up my mind to write her by this mail. I suppose Aunt is polishing you up a little so that you may come out 'a bright particular star'. You must tell me what you are doing and all about

it. With very kind love to dear Aunt yourself and Co believe me ever  
Dear Fanny

Your affect Uncle

H H Hall

Uncle S desires his love